



## Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

**Number:** 53-006

**Title:** Physical Hazard: Noise

**Saskatchewan Employment Act:**

**OHS Regulation:** 109-114

**Date:** January 1, 2017

**Date Revised/Reaffirmed:** May 28, 2018

Any PRINTED version of this document is only accurate up to the date of printing. Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), Occupational Health & Safety Services (OHS) cannot guarantee the currency or accuracy of any printed policy. Always refer to the Occupational Health & Safety internal website for the most current versions of documents in effect. This policy complies with legislation (minimum standards) at the time of this writing and/or revision. SHA OHS accepts no responsibility for use of this material by any person or organization not associated with SHA. No part of this document may be reproduced in any form for publication without permission of SHA OHS Services.

### Purpose

- To conserve optimal hearing in exposed workers
- To monitor workers exposure to noise

### Definition

The noise exposure level is a function of the dBA (decibel level) and the time exposed, e.g. 85 dBA  $L_{ex}$  indicates that the worker is exposed to an average of 85 decibels over an 8-hour shift.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- Noise levels are measured, evaluated and documented in accordance with an approved method in every area where workers are required or permitted to work where noise levels may frequently exceed 80 dBA
- All reasonable and practicable means are used to reduce noise levels in all areas where workers may be required or permitted to work, which may include:
  - Eliminating or modifying the noise source
  - Substituting quieter equipment or processes
  - Enclosing the noise source
  - Installing acoustical barriers or sounds absorbing material
- Workers are informed of the hazards of occupational noise exposure
- Where the exposure level is 80-85 dBA  $L_{ex}$ 
  - That the workers are informed of the hazards
  - Hearing protection is made available if requested by the workers
  - Workers are trained in the selection, use and maintenance of the hearing protection
- Where the exposure level is 85 dBA  $L_{ex}$  or greater
  - Inform the workers of the hazards and take preventative and protective measures to manager the hazards
  - If it is not possible to decrease the exposure level to less than 85 dBA  $L_{ex}$ , provide written reasons to the Occupational Health Committee why the manager believes the exposure level cannot be reduced
  - Hearing protection is provided to the workers and they are trained in the selection, use and maintenance of the hearing protection

- Competent supervisor is provided as appropriate
- Where 10 or more workers' noise exposure exceeds 85 dBA  $L_{ex}$ , a hearing conservation plan is established

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- That roles and responsibilities of all workers are being met, as well as applicable legislation and/or standards
- Safe work procedures are written and followed
- The training of workers is documented
- PPE is supplied and workers has been trained on the care and use of the PPE
- Noise levels are posted for areas with 80 dBA or greater

Worker must ensure:

- They are trained in and follow the safe work procedures
- They are trained in and use required PPE (selection, use, care and handling)
- They report to their supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Report Line any incidents or near misses involving noise exposure

#### **Orientation & Training**

- Safe work procedures
- PPE use and care
- Hearing conservation plan where required

#### **Materials**

- PPE if required

#### **Non-Compliance/Breach:**

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

May 28, 2018